

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 186862

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, RP

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE PRESENCE OF ALLEGED HUMAN-RIGHTS VIOLA-
TORS IN U.S.

REF: MANILA 6576 (LIMDIS)

1. PHILIPPINE TIMES ARTICLE DATELINED WASHINGTON JUNE 12
STATES THAT LT. COL. ROLANDO N. ABADILLA, PHILIPPINE CON-
STABULARY, QUOTE LINKED TO TORTURE COMPLAINTS BY POLITICAL
DETAINEES, END QUOTE WAS SCHEDULED TO ATTEND COURSE AT US
ARMY COMMAND AND GENERAL STAFF COLLEGE AT FORT LEAVENWORTH,
KANSAS, BEGINNING JULY 5 OR 6. ARTICLE PROJECTED HIS
ARRIVAL IN MID-JUNE AND REPORTING DATE AT LEAVENWORTH AS
JUNE 28.

2. ARTICLE QUOTES RAUL MANGLAPUS, HEAD OF MOVEMENT FOR
A FREE PHILIPPINES, AS SAYING THAT QUOTE INCLUSION OF
ACCUSED TORTURERS LIKE ABADILLA IN THE US ARMY TRAINING
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PROGRAM GIVES CREDENCE TO CHARGES THAT MANY FILIPINO MILI-
TARY OFFICERS MANNING THE MARCOS PRISONS LEARNED COERCIVE
INVESTIGATION TACTICS IN AMERICA. END QUOTE.

3. ARTICLE ALSO STATES THAT THREE OTHER OFFICERS (TWO FULL
COLONELS AND ANOTHER LIEUTENANT COLONEL) WERE TO ATTEND

USAC&GS WITH ABADILLA BUT DOES NOT GIVE THEIR NAMES OR SERVICES.

4. THIS ARTICLE HAS PRODUCED INQUIRIES TO DEPARTMENT FROM SEVERAL QUARTERS, INCLUDING JOURNALIST STEVE PSINAKAS (WHO TOLD US HE KNEW ONLY THAT THE NEWSPAPER'S SOURCE FOR THE STORY WAS IN THE PHILIPPINES) AND FROM A CONGRESSIONAL OFFICE VISITED BY CHARITO PLANAS, WHO TOLD STAFFERS THAT ANOTHER ALLEGED TORTURER, COL. (FNU) AURE, WAS SUPPOSEDLY ALSO AMONG THE LEAVENWORTH SELECTEES.

5. INQUIRY BY DEPARTMENT TO LEAVENWORTH INDICATES THAT ABADILLA IS NOT RPT NOT A MEMBER OF THE COURSE THAT BEGAN EARLIER THIS MONTH. HOWEVER, WE CANNOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT HE HAS BEEN SELECTED FOR SOME OTHER MILITARY TRAINING PROGRAM AND NEITHER STATE NOR DEFENSE HAS ANY READY MEANS OF CHECKING ALL POSSIBILITIES. WE ANTICIPATE PRESSURE FOR A MORE CONCLUSIVE ANSWER THAN WE HAVE SO FAR BEEN ABLE TO OBTAIN OR TO RELAY TO INQUIRERS, PARTICULARLY WITH CONGRESS ABOUT TO TAKE UP FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE LEGISLATION INCLUDING IMET.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: POST REQUESTED TO ADVISE WHETHER COLS. ABADILLA AND AURE OR ANY OTHER AFP PERSONNEL ACCUSED OF HUMAN-RIGHTS VIOLATIONS ARE PARTICIPATING IN ANY USG-SPONSORED TRAINING PROGRAM AT PRESENT TIME, ARE SCHEDULED
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FOR SAME, OR HAVE RECENTLY BEEN NOMINATED FOR SAME BY JUSMAG BUT VETOED BY EMBASSY (AND IF SO, ON WHAT BASIS). DEPARTMENT HAS EXTENSIVE INFORMATION ON ALLEGATIONS AGAINST LT. COL. ABADILLA THROUGH VARIOUS DOCUMENTS ISSUED BY FATHER JAMES REUTER AND OTHERWISE BUT WOULD WELCOME BACKGROUND INFORMATION OR CITATIONS WITH RESPECT TO COL. AURE.

7. COPY OF PHILIPPINE TIMES ARTICLE BEING POUCHED TO EMBASSY, ATTENTION CONNORS.

8. PLEASE NOTE EA ONLY CAPTION. VANCE

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Message Attributes

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